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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

Hamilton Mercantile

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

AND

GENERAL NEWS-ROOM.

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Established, 1845.

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HAMILTON :

PRINTED AT THE JOURNAL AND EXPRESS OFFICE.

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**Patron:**  
**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD METCALFE.**

**President:**  
**JAMES MACINTYRE.**

**Vice President:**  
**WILLIAM F. MURRAY.**

**Treasurer:**  
**EDWARD ADAMS.**

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Corresponding Secretary:</b> | <b>Recording Secretary:</b> |
| <b>JAMES E. SABINE.</b>         | <b>WM. G. FERGUSON.</b>     |

**Committee:**  
**ROBERT MORE,**  
**EDWARD FERGUSON,**  
**DAVID BUCHANAN,**  
**JOSEPH WARD,**  
**GEORGE W. BREGA.**

**Honorary Members:**  
**THE REVEREND JAMES GAMBLE GEDDES.**  
" " **ALEXANDER GALE.**

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# CONSTITUTION.

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WE, the Subscribers, engaged as Mercantile Clerks and otherwise, in the Town of Hamilton, viewing the disadvantages under which we have hitherto laboured from the want of an Institution having for its object the diffusion of information conducive to success in our several associations, resolve to form ourselves into an Association for the purpose of establishing a Library and Reading Room, and organising a system of instruction by Lectures, or such other means as may best tend to our improvement—and we hereby adopt for our regulation and government the following CONSTITUTION :—

ART. 1. This Association shall be known by the name of "*The Hamilton Mercantile Library Association, and General News Room.*"

ART. 2. The Association shall be composed of those engaged in Mercantile

and professional pursuits as Clerks, and of such other persons as shall be elected Honorary Members, by the Board of Directors, or as shall become Members as hereinafter provided.

ART. 3. Persons engaged in Mercantile or Professional pursuits as Clerks, may become members of this Association on being elected as hereinafter provided, when they shall have subscribed to the constitution, and paid Fifteen Shillings, which sum they shall pay thereafter in the first week of April in each and every year.

ART. 4. Merchants or Professional men may become members by paying annually one Pound Five Shillings, but no Merchant or Professional man shall be entitled to vote or be eligible to any office.

ART. 5. The Officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Five Directors, to be elected annually by Ballot.

ART. 6. The President shall preside at the meeting of the Association; preserve order therein, and in case of an equal division of the members on any question, give the casting vote.

ART. 7. The President of the Association shall be "*ex-officio*" President of the Board of Directors, in which capacity he shall give only a casting vote.

ART. 8. The Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall perform all the duties of that officer.

ART. 9. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Association under the Superintendence of the Board of Directors, of which he shall keep a record.

ART. 10. The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate Record of the transactions of the Association, and of the Board of Directors.

ART. 11. The Treasurer shall receive all dues and donations of money, pay all drafts on him when signed by the Secretary, and countersigned by the President, and keep a regular account of the financial concerns of the Association, an abstract of which accompanied by satisfactory vouchers, he shall exhibit at each monthly meeting of the Board of Direction, and at each quarterly meeting of the Association.

ART. 12. The President, Vice President, Secretaries, Treasurer and Directors, shall constitute a Board of Direction, with full powers to appropriate Funds, enact By-Laws, and conduct the affairs of the Association. The Board shall meet on the first Monday of each month, and at the quarterly meetings report its proceedings and the state of the Association; at such and other meetings of the Board five shall form a quorum.

ART. 13. Persons may be elected Honorary Members by the Board of Directors, and all such shall be entitled to all the privileges of regular membership, excepting the right to vote and to hold office.

ART. 14. A membership of at least one month shall be required to give any member the right to vote, and a membership of at least six months, shall be requisite to make a member eligible to any office—after the election of the original office-bearers.

ART. 15. If the dues of any member remain unpaid for the term of three months, and on his being notified thereof by the Secretary, and the same not being liquidated within the space of fourteen

days, his privileges of membership shall be forfeited, unless circumstances exist which may allow of his being excused by the Board of Directors.

ART. 16. Quarterly meetings of the Association shall take place on the first Monday of July, October, January and April, (the last named to be the anniversary meeting,) for the purpose of receiving the reports of the Secretaries, Treasurer, and Board of Directors, and for the transaction of such other business as may be presented.

ART. 17. The President, at the request of the Board of Direction, or at the written request of one-third of the Members, stating the reasons therefor, shall call a meeting of the Members for the transaction of special business—two weeks notice thereof having been given.

ART. 18. In case of flagrant official or personal misconduct, the Board of Directors shall have power, by a vote of three-fourths of its members, to expel a member of the Board—two weeks notice of the charges against him having been previously given him in writing by the Secretary.

ART. 19. In case any vacancies shall

occur in the Board of Directors, the Board shall have full power to fill such vacancies till next quarterly meeting, and notice shall be given of such election.

ART. 20. There shall be an election of Officers for the Association, commencing on the Monday succeeding the Annual Meeting ; and no Member shall be entitled to vote or be eligible to hold office who is in arrears for Subscription.

ART. 21. That at all elections at General Meetings the vote be taken by Ballot.

ART. 22. Four weeks previous to each election for officers of the Association, the Board shall give Public Notice thereof, and shall also appoint Inspectors to superintend said election ; and if a failure to elect a Board of Directors, or any part thereof, shall occur, said Inspectors shall order a new election, to be held within one week thereafter, to fill such vacancy.

ART. 23. The Board of Direction shall enter upon the performance of its duties on the Monday succeeding its election.

ART. 24. The Board of Direction shall have full power to make all proper provisions and regulations for the preservation.

management, and direction of the Library and Reading Room.

ART. 25. It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint a Librarian with such assistants as may be deemed necessary, and to require of him sufficient sureties, in a sum not less than One Hundred Pounds, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

ART. 26. A Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Direction to examine the Books and other property of the Association, and report thereon at least one month previous to each Annual Meeting.

ART. 27. That until an Act of Incorporation be obtained for this Association, its Property shall be unalienable, except by the votes of nine-tenths of the whole of the members present at a General Meeting specially called for that purpose.

ART. 28 There shall be no alteration in this Constitution, unless the same shall have been proposed to the Board of Direction, at least one month previous to an Annual Meeting, and there approved of by two-thirds of the members of the Association present at such Meeting.

RULES AND REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
LIBRARY.

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1. The Library shall be in charge of the Superintendent under the control of the Directors. He shall be in attendance to receive and deliver Books from 10 till 12, A. M., from 3 to 5, and from 7 to 9, P. M., every lawful day.

2. No member shall be entitled to draw a Book from the Library until he shall have paid all sums due by him to the Association, and make good all damages and losses that he may have occasioned.

3. That no member shall have more than one volume at a time, except in the case of the plates or key to any subject being in a separate volume.

4. That the time for reading a Book

shall be marked on its title page, including the day of delivery and return.

5. That a member retaining a Book longer than the appointed time, shall pay a fine of one penny for every day the book is detained, and if kept above seven days 3 pence a day, and if not then returned, application shall be made to the member for the same, and if not then returned, the member shall pay the value thereof or of the set of Books to which it belongs, and in default of payment, he shall not be entitled to any privilege from the Library.

6. That no member shall lend a Book to any person out of the dwelling-house or counting room of said member, under a fine of 5s.

7. That if a Book be written in, or otherwise damaged, the member in whose hands the Book was at the time, shall pay the amount of damage, the value of the Book or set (if it belongs to a set) or replace it by one equally good, according to the judgment of the Committee, and he shall not be entitled to any privilege from the Library till such damage is paid.

8. None of the Books marked in the

Catalogue as Books of reference shall be circulated.

9. That a member on returning a Book may take the same again out of the Library if no application for it has previously been made.

10. That proper Books be kept for entering the Books taken out of the Library.

11. Any member wishing to propose a book, must enter the same in the Order Book. The Committee will determine upon the propriety of admitting the same, and if granted, the proposer will be allowed the first reading of the same.

12. The Superintendent shall examine the Books, and report on their condition to the Board of Direction a month previous to each annual meeting, and the holders of all books not returned for the purpose of this examination, after due notice, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Board, to have their names exposed at the annual meeting, as defaulters.

13. Any member may be allowed the perusal of a Book in the rooms of the Association, but such Book must be at once resigned to any member drawing it from

the Library for perusal at home.

14. No number of any periodical work shall be taken from the rooms until the succeeding No. has been received.

15. The Books marked in the Catalogue with a cross † and such others as may from time to time be specially designated by the Committee, shall not be taken from the rooms except by express permission of said Committee.

16. No person except members of the Board of Direction shall remove a Book from its place in the Library without the permission of the Superintendent.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

## NEWS ROOM.

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1. The rooms will be open from 7, A. M. till 10, P. M., to the 1st of November, and from 8, A. M., to 10, P. M., during the remaining six months, Sundays excepted.
2. No conversation shall be allowed except in an under tone, and no person shall be permitted to smoke in the room, damage or injure the furniture thereof, or conduct himself in any way inconsistent with propriety.
3. Any person injuring any of the periodicals or papers placed in the Reading Room shall be liable to a fine equal to double the cost thereof.
4. Any member may have the privilege of introducing a friend not resident within

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five miles of Hamilton, for the term of two weeks, and the names of all persons thus introduced shall be registered in a book provided for that purpose.

5. All captains or pursers of steamboats are to be allowed free access to the Room.

6. Any subscriber to the Room possessing any intelligence of interest is requested to enter the same on the Journals of the Room.

7. All periodicals to remain on the Table of the News Room until the next number comes in.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS, 1st JUNE, 1845.

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Atkinson, William | Corbey, Lewis R.        |
| Adams, Edward     | Drynan, James           |
| Arkell, James     | Davidson, John          |
| Angus, George     | Duggan, R. O.           |
| Andrews, James M. | Davidson, James         |
|                   | Dunn, T. H.             |
| Bank, Gore        | Dickenson, W. G., M. D. |
| Bank of B. N. A.  | Date, Samuel            |
| Buchanap, Isaac   |                         |
| Browne, M. W.     | Erwin, John             |
| Browne, Edward    | Erwin, Geo. C.          |
| Bickle, T.        | Erwin, W. J.            |
| Buckham, M.       |                         |
| Bigelow, Albert   | Freeman, S. B.          |
| Blyth, Thomas A.  | Farish, William         |
| Burton, George W. | Ferrie, Colin C.        |
| Beasley, R. G.    | Fergusson, D. J.        |
| Beasley, Henry    | Fergusson, William G.   |
| Bendmore, G. L.   | Ferrie, Robert          |
| Baker, Hugh C.    | Findley J.              |
| Brega, S.         | Fyfe, William B.        |
| Brethour, John    |                         |
| Billings, Dr.     | Gilkison, J. T.         |
| Buchanan David    | Geddes, James           |
| Bengough, R. H.   | Geddes, Andrew          |
| Beasley, R. S.    | Goldie, Adam            |
| Bray, Frederick   |                         |
| Barton, J. S.     | Harvies, R. W.          |
| Brega, G. W.      | Hatt, John O.           |
| Bull, Richard     | Holden, J. B.           |
| Bethune, James K. | Hamilton, P. H.         |
|                   | Hamilton, Robt. J.      |
| Campbell, Alex.   | Hunter, J. W., M. D.    |
| Cook, Hiram       | Harvey, W. W.           |
| Cummings, James   | Harvey, James           |
| Cresswell, J.     | Harvey, Wm.             |
| Carpenter, Alex.  |                         |

Inman, James W.  
Ireland, H. W.  
Juson, Richard  
Jaffrey, J.  
Jones, Charles

-Kennedy, Aeneas S.  
Kerr, Archibald  
Kerr, Thomas C.

Larken, J. P.  
Land, John  
Law, Robert W.  
Lister, Joseph  
Light, A. S.

McLaren, Wm. P.  
McNab, Daniel  
McDonald, A.  
Murray, Wm. F.  
Milner, B.  
Mogford, Wm.  
McKay, James D.  
McKendrick M.  
Moore, D.  
Moore, J. F.  
McNab, Duncan  
Meredith, James S.  
McIntosh, —  
Miller, John B.  
Martin, Richard  
More Robert  
McKenzie, James  
Monach, Robert P.

-O'Reilly, Miles  
O'Reilly, Hamilton  
O'Reilly, Gerard, M. D.  
Osborne, James  
Ogilvie, Alexander

Price, William G.  
Powell, William D.  
Pringle, James

Ritchie, Edmund  
Roy, Robert  
Ramsay, T.  
Riddell, John  
Routh, Thomas  
Rodgers, Henry  
Raphael, T. W.  
Rolston, Robert.

Stuart, Andrew  
Steven, Andrew  
Stocks, James  
Swain, A. W. B.  
Salt, John  
Sabine, James E.  
Street, R. P.  
Stokoe, Thomas  
Stokoe, Edmund  
Stokoe, D.  
Stevenson, P.S.  
Simpson, Walter

Thomas, E. Cartwright.  
Tiffany, G. S.  
Tisdale, V. H.  
Thompson, J.  
Thompson, G.

Willson, H. B.  
Winer, John  
Webster, C. H.  
Whitlaw, C. D.  
Ward, Joseph

Young, John  
Young, John, Jun.  
Young, Robert  
Young, Matthew